

**§ 403.700 Basis and purpose.**

This subpart implements sections 1821; 1861(e), (y), and (ss); 1869; and 1878 of the Act regarding Medicare payment for inpatient hospital or posthospital extended care services furnished to eligible beneficiaries in religious nonmedical health care institutions.

**§ 403.702 Definitions and terms.**

For purposes of this subpart, the following definitions and terms apply:

*Election* means a written statement signed by the beneficiary or the beneficiary's legal representative indicating the beneficiary's choice to receive nonmedical care or treatment for religious reasons.

*Excepted medical care* means medical care that is received involuntarily or required under Federal, State, or local laws.

*FFY* stands for Federal fiscal year.

*Medical care or treatment* means health care furnished by or under the direction of a licensed physician that can involve diagnosing, treating, or preventing disease and other damage to the mind and body. It may involve the use of pharmaceuticals, diet, exercise, surgical intervention, and technical procedures.

*Nonexcepted medical care* means medical care (other than excepted medical care) that is sought by or for a beneficiary who has elected religious nonmedical health care institution services.

*Religious nonmedical care or religious method of healing* means health care furnished under established religious tenets that prohibit conventional or unconventional medical care for the treatment of a beneficiary, and the sole reliance on these religious tenets to fulfill a beneficiary's total health care needs.

*RNHCI* stands for "religious nonmedical health care institution," as defined in section 1861(ss)(1) of the Act.

*Religious nonmedical nursing personnel* means individuals who are grounded in the religious beliefs of the RNHCI, trained and experienced in the principles of nonmedical care, and formally recognized as competent in the administration of care within their religious nonmedical health care group.

**§ 403.720 Conditions for coverage.**

Medicare covers services furnished in an RNHCI if the following conditions are met:

(a) The provider meets the definition of an RNHCI as defined in section 1861(ss)(1) of the Act. That is, it is an institution that:

(1) Is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxes under section 501(a).

(2) Is lawfully operated under all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

(3) Furnishes only nonmedical nursing items and services to beneficiaries who choose to rely solely upon a religious method of healing and for whom the acceptance of medical services would be inconsistent with their religious beliefs.

(4) Furnishes nonmedical items and services exclusively through nonmedical nursing personnel who are experienced in caring for the physical needs of nonmedical patients.

(5) Furnishes nonmedical items and services to inpatients on a 24-hour basis.

(6) Does not furnish, on the basis of religious beliefs, through its personnel or otherwise medical items and services (including any medical screening, examination, diagnosis, prognosis, treatment, or the administration of drugs) for its patients.

(7) Is not owned by, is not under common ownership with, or does not have an ownership interest of 5 percent or more in, a provider of medical treatment or services and is not affiliated with a provider of medical treatment or services or with an individual who has an ownership interest of 5 percent or more in, a provider of medical treatment or services. (Permissible affiliations are described at § 403.738(c).)

(8) Has in effect a utilization review plan that sets forth the following:

(i) Provides for review of the admissions to the institution, the duration of stays, and the need for continuous extended duration of stays in the institution, and the items and services furnished by the institution.